

OTTAWA'S OLDEST AND RICHEST COMPANY IS ABSORBED BY W. U.

ILLINOIS & MISSISSIPPI TEL.
IS TURNED OVER TO LONG
TIME LESSEE

PAID \$86,000 A YEAR

FINAL DISSOLUTION OF CONCERN
ORGANIZED HERE IN EARLY
DAY BY JUDGE CATON, TAKES
PLACE THIS MORNING.

The Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph Company was dissolved at a meeting held by the directors of the corporation at the National City bank at 11:30 o'clock this morning and the assets of the company turned over to the Western Union Telegraph Company.

The meeting was attended by the full board of directors, including Leonard B. Karcher, Hugh S. Pettis, Walter S. Underwood, W. McD. Milne and Claude H. Kuhn. The company was also represented by counsel Henry G. Miller and Russell Whitman, of the firm of Whitman & Miller, all residents of Chicago.

The transfer of the property of the Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph Company was a formal proceeding. The company was organized in Ottawa by the late Judge Caton and after 3,000 miles of line had been constructed it was leased to the Western Union Telegraph Company in perpetuity for an annual rental of \$86,000. This rental was paid in four annual installments and was paid regularly by the Western Union up to the date of the dissolution.

The stock, however, had practically all been absorbed by the Western Union Telegraph so at the present time there is only three per cent of the old stock outstanding. This stock is either lost or held by persons whom it was impossible to serve with notice of the meeting for the purpose of dissolving the company.

Since the Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph Company was leased to the Western Union all extensions and renewals have been made by the Western Union Company until there is hardly a town in the central west that is not reached by this network of wires. The consideration paid for outstanding stock at the time of dissolution was \$10 per share.

ANNOUNCE DATES OF COUNTY FAIR

September 18 to 21 are the dates for the La Salle County Fair for 1917. Tuesday, Sept. 18th, will be known as Children's Day. Plans are now being made to have a bigger and better fair for 1917.

METAL FACTORY MAY LOCATE HERE

A Metal Stamping Co. is one of the possible factories that may be induced to locate in this city. Upon information furnished Secretary John O'Kane by W. J. Dwyer, it was learned that such a factory could be secured. A representative of the company, whose name is being withheld, was in Ottawa and looked over several sites for his factory. The plant will employ about thirty-five men. The concern is moving from another city.

MARRIAGE STOPS COURT'S ACTION

This afternoon at 2 o'clock in Justice Koenig's court, Harry Miller, who was indicted on a serious charge, was married to Mrs. Nettie Thomas. The marriage of the couple nullifies the criminal proceedings and guarantees Miller immunity from prosecution.

FOREMEN HOLD SAFETY MEETING

Twenty-four foremen in the employ of the National Fire Proof Construction Co., at the Pioneer and Twin Bluffs plants, were the guests at a safety first and efficiency dinner held last evening at Wah Hop's Chop Suey house, with Superintendent G. P. Fisher as host. A sumptuous supper was served, followed by talks which were given along the standpoint of efficiency and safety by the employees of the concern. It is planned to hold these meetings monthly, at which time working conditions will be discussed and progressive movements planned. The gathering abounded with a wholesome cooperation upon the part of employees.

WAS NOT INSANE; MUST PAY ALIMONY

PERU WIFE FAILS IN ATTEMPT
TO HAVE HER HUSBAND SENT
TO KANKAKEE—HEARING WAS
FROUGHT WITH INTEREST.

An insanity hearing fraught with interest in which a wife was arraigned against her husband, was thrashed out in the County Court before Judge Mayo and a commission of doctors consisting of W. H. Jamieson and A. J. Roberts. The inquiry, which was held yesterday afternoon, resulted in a sweeping victory for Joseph Poslednik, a Peru miner, against whom information was filed by Mrs. Poslednik.

Upon the witness stand the wife railed and ranted over the actions of Poslednik and attempted to convince her auditors that her spouse was of hopeless mental condition. All the while the "defendant" sat in court, calmly listening to the damaging testimony of his helmet without a murmur of protest until his time came to take the stand.

In a voice pitched high with emotion the woman told of the man's peculiarities and of his conduct toward her and their children. To "save herself" she said she was forced to adopt stringent means of protecting herself against "bodily harm and filed insanity proceedings to have Poslednik sent away.

Poslednik, when he was given a chance to tell his side of the story, fatigued in veiled insinuations that he had good and justifiable reasons for acting towards his helpmeet as he did. He mentioned names of men, tho at no time did he directly accuse Mrs. Poslednik of any wrong-doing, leaving his remarks to take effect in whatever manner they were received.

When the hearing was finally completed it was decided that Poslednik was sane, but that he and the Missus should separate. Poslednik agreed to these conditions and offered to pay her \$10 a month as "alimony" and to keep up all payments upon the building and loan stock owned by them, which amounts to \$11 a month. While yesterday's "insanity test" cost him \$21 a month, Poslednik made no outward manifestations of regret and took his lot with good grace.

PRESENTATION OF FLAG POSTPONED

The presentation of a flag to the Ottawa township high school by the Rotary Club has been postponed on account of the inability of Captain Steever to attend the meeting planned for next Monday evening.

V. J. Dungan, of the Ottawa township high school board was advised by Captain Steever today, that owing to previous engagements, it would be impossible to attend this meeting, but that he would be able to come at some other time within the near future. The date of the presentation has been postponed until word can be received from Captain Steever fixing the date of the meeting.

WINDOW TRIMMER WILL TAKE NEW POSITION.

George Pollock, who has been engaged for the past five months as window decorator for M. Stiefel & Son, clothier, will leave this evening for Manitowish, Wisconsin to accept a similar position with a clothing firm in that city. During the library week here Mr. Pollock donated his time and service in drawing artistic poster cards.

His excellent taste in arranging the windows for Stiefel & Son, won him much praise. His many friends wish him continued success in his new field.

TRAINED SEALS TO BE ON GAYETY'S SUNDAY BILL

Manager Lewis, of the Gayety Theatre, announces that he has booked a trained seal act in his vaudeville for Sunday. The act, carrying a Shetland pony, which one of the seals rides. Manager Lewis states that the parents should be sure to have the children witness this show, at the matinee if possible.

Gene Conley and Company in a sketch, "A Cup of Tea," is said to be one of the best ever offered on this circuit. "Three Loves," a comedy musical act, is also on the bill. Two other good acts make up the remainder of the bill.

AGED MAN CLEARS SELF OF CONTEMPT

EUGENE MYERS TESTIFIES IN
OWN BEHALF TO AVOID GOING
TO JAIL—JUDGE STOUGH RE-
FUSES TO COMMIT HIM WHEN
STORY IS TOLD.

Eugene Myers, bent with years and hard toil, while ably represented by counsel, won his own argument this morning against his being committed to jail under contempt when he was taken before Judge Stough to show why he had not paid his wife, Minna Myers, alimony during the pendency of her divorce suit.

Myers, who resides in Center Ottawa near the Fox river, is defendant in proceedings instituted by Mrs. Myers, who alleges extreme and repeated cruelty in her plea. Shortly after the bill was filed, Myers was ordered to pay the complainant \$4 a week, \$8.95 in court costs and \$25 solicitor's fees.

He explained to Judge Stough just why he had failed to follow out the rule, thereby jeopardizing his freedom. He said he worked as a driller in the Chicago Retort & Firebrick Co.'s plant and could secure work only on such days as he was needed during the winter months, and that he would not average two or three days employment a week during the winter months. He said he was keeping "bach" in his shack, for which he paid \$4 a month rent. His pay was \$2.20 a day when he worked, out of which he was able to scrape only the mere necessities of life for himself. His argument won and he was released.

Toothless and his back bending from troubles that piled one upon the other during his sixty-six years of unhappy life, Myers was a pathetic figure as he unravelled his story before the Judge. Myers explained to his lawyer just why he was without teeth. He had had at one time a perfectly good set of store teeth. He took them out one day and they were lost. He never found them again and since then he has been unable to purchase a new set.

Skeletons were rattled during the hearing and unusual as it may seem, there wasn't a man in the room but who felt sorry that some of the testimony was woven into the trial. Myers' eyes filled and his throat choked as he testified, tho he was fighting bravely to hold his head up and be brave.

At one time Myers was a prosperous farmer residing in Waltham township. Adversity came his way and in the flood of troubles that were poured upon him he lost family, farm and all. When he tried to recover from the blow he only met with defeat and since then has been doing the best he could as a common day laborer.

He accused his wife of running away from him, and said she could have the best home he could give her if she would return to him. Mrs. Myers and her eleven year old daughter are rooming with relatives. She is forced to work out by the day to support herself and child.

RUSS ASSAULT GERMAN LINES

Berlin via Sayville, Jan. 20.—Desperate efforts are being made by the Russians in Moldavia to break the lines of the German and Austro-Hungarian troops.

The War office, in its report today on Rumanian operations, said that numerous attacks were made by the Russians in the Carpathians and all were pressed home with the utmost vigor. At one point the Russians penetrated a German position, but were driven out after bloody hand-to-hand fighting.

Field Marshal von Mackensen's forces fighting their way forward in a blizzard have captured the town of Manesti on the Sereth river. Four hundred additional Russo Rumanian prisoners have been captured.

SEIZE ABDUCTOR OF YOUNG GIRL

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 20.—Lucy Margie, 15, of No. 27 State street, Buffalo, N. Y., and John Louville, 20, of Depew, N. Y., are under arrest here today charged with violating the Mann act. They had been living here as man and wife two weeks, although Louville admitted the police say, the girl was the victim of a marriage license hoax and that he had a wife and child in Depew.

The girl said she met Louville last May and that after he had courted her to take her to the city hall where he procured a paper and said they were then married. The paper was merely a marriage license. She said she had lived with Louville at Cleveland, Marion, Sandusky and Norwalk, Ohio, coming here from Norwalk.

EXTRA

WIFE OF BANKER IS SHOT
BY BANDITS.

Kanopolis, Kans., Jan. 20.—Mrs. Emma Cowie and her two sons were shot down by five bank bandits who wrecked Cowie's bank, the Exchange State bank, at 2 o'clock this morning. The battle occurred when Cowie and his sons rushed to do battle with the bandits after being attracted by the blast which wrecked the vault. None was injured seriously. The bandits escaped with \$3,000.

CALL SWISS RESERVES FROM
UNITED STATES.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 20.—Swiss reservists of the second, fourth and fifth army divisions in this country have been called to the colors, it was learned at the Swiss Legation here today. The mobilization is ordered for Jan. 24. Many were in the former mobilization but were given leaves and returned to this country.

EXPECT HEAVY LOSS IN
LONDON BLAST.

London, Jan. 20.—Heavy loss of life may have accompanied the ammunition factory explosion in a suburb of London last night, according to an official announcement by the ministry of munitions. There was great destruction of property also. So great was the force of the explosion that this city was rocked as though in the grip of an earthquake. Some thought that London was being attacked by a big fleet of Zeppelins and that bombs were falling all over the city. Many windows are without glass today.

SEATTLE FIRE CHIEF KILLED
IN HOTEL BLAZE.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 20.—Fred Gillam, assistant fire chief, is dead, eight firemen are seriously injured and the Grand opera house here is a total wreck following a fire of unknown origin which started this morning and is still raging. The huge structure is brick with a wooden dome, Seattle's landmark in the theatrical world, caved in after the fire was in progress.

MILITARY CORPS ELECTS OFFICERS

HIGH SCHOOL CADETS ARE DI-
VIDED INTO TWO COMPANIES
—LOTHROP FOLLETT IS HON-
ORED AS BATTALION LEADER.

With a membership of one hundred and thirty cadets, yesterday afternoon the students of the Ottawa high school military class elected officers. The soldiers were divided into two companies and a separate set of officers named for each group.

Lothrop Follett, who has been the principal instructor of the high school cadets, was honored as battalion leader over the two companies. The officers for the first company are:

Leader—H. Hilliard.
Assistant Leader—P. Acuff.
First Platoon Leader—J. P. Shaver.
First Asst. Platoon Leader—E. Dwyer.
Second Platoon Leader—G. Baker.
Second Asst. Platoon Leader—E. Hitter.

Second Company.
Leader—Harley Langan.
Assistant Leader—L. O'Neil.
First Platoon Leader—W. Sanders.
First Asst. Platoon Leader—C. Bradish.
Second Platoon Leader—J. Carr.
Second Asst. Platoon Leader—C. Kleiber.

Corporals will be elected at a later meeting. As soon as the weather is permissible shooting at the open ranges will be held.

SPARTA, ILL., MAID VICTIM OF THUG

St. Louis, Jan. 20.—Bruised and bleeding, Miss Emma Moss, 24, of Sparta, Ill., early today staggered into the home of Mrs. Harry Potter here, where she is employed as a maid, and told of a brutal assault by an unknown man. Miss Moss was returning after a visit to friends. She was near the Potter home when she was seized, struck on the head with a blunt instrument and dragged into a nearby hall where she lay for two hours. When she regained consciousness she was crawling to her employer's home. She was unable to describe her assailant.

OBJECTORS DEMAND CHANGE OF VENUE

SENSATION SPRUNG IN COUNTY
COURT THIS MORNING WHEN
NEW JUDGE IS ASKED FOR
"LOOP" PAVING.

In an affidavit charging Judge Mayo with being prejudiced against the interests of the petitioners James J. Conway this morning in the county court asked for a change of venue from the Ottawa Jurist to some judge to be selected by him for the trial of the legal questions contained in the "loop paving" ordinance.

The affidavit came as a complete surprise to Judge Mayo and representatives of the city's legal department, none of whom had been given any intimation that a venue change was to be asked from Judge Mayo. As soon as they learned of the motion. Attorneys Taylor Strawn and R. D. Mills asked for a continuance upon the hearing to name a day certain for thrashing out the legality of the ordinance and were allowed until Monday morning at 10 o'clock to arrange their arguments against the motion for a new judge to hear the issues.

To avoid any more delay in rushing the work than is necessary attorneys for the city will demand that Judge Mayo be induced to remain upon the bench during the hearing of the case. They will make every effort to prevent dilatory tactics and will urge that all haste be used in disposing of the objections.

Judge Mayo did not state this morning whether he would grant the prayer of the petition or not. He will announce his decision Monday morning, after the city has resisted the efforts of the objectors to get another jurist to hear their complaints against the assessment roll.

Those who alleged that they feared their interests would not be properly safeguarded under Judge Mayo were: Mrs. Alida Conway, John and Michael Heifrich, Willard Gay, T. W. Burrows and Hugh Colwell.

The hearing to set the objections for trial was to have been held yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock, but because he was busily engaged in disposing of an insanity case the arguments were not taken up until this morning. One of the several county judges in the vicinity of Ottawa probably will be called here to decide the validity of the ordinance and the roll. Judge David Gregg, of Marshall county, may be asked to perform that duty.

MRS. E. H. MOSS 100 YEARS OLD

Mrs. Elizabeth Haney Moss, Grand Ridge's oldest resident, today celebrated her one hundredth birthday anniversary at the home of her son, J. A. Moss, with whom she resides. Mrs. Moss and Miss Elizabeth Gleim, of this city, who observed her century anniversary last Thursday, are believed to be the two oldest women in this section of the state.

The celebration at the Moss home was quiet, the many friends called upon the aged woman to congratulate her upon her attainment. She is rugged and in good health. Reports say, William L. Milligan, whom she knew as a little fellow, called upon her this morning and Mrs. Moss readily recognized him and called him by name.

Mrs. Moss was born in Fayette county, Pa., January 20, 1817, and on July 13, 1836, was married to Joseph C. Moss. They came to Farm Ridge in 1860 and settled upon a farm where they have continued to reside. To the couple were born nine children, eight of whom were boys. The daughter died young, but six of the sons are still living. Elmer Moss, of Nebraska, came here to attend the celebration of his mother's one hundredth anniversary.

STREATOR MAN IN PLEA FOR DIVORCE

William Hennessey, of Streator, today filed suit in the Circuit Court for divorce from his wife, Mary E. Hennessey, to whom he was married February 17, 1909, and who, he says, deserted him in February, 1914. The couple have two children, who are with the mother in Chicago. The father, who he is the complainant for divorce, has guaranteed to pay the wife \$20 a month toward the support of the babies.

RAG TIME CZAR TO OPEN
BRANCH SCHOOL IN OTTAWA.

Axel Christensen, well known the world over as the "Czar of Ragtime," and President of the Christensen Schools of Popular Music, with branch schools in every large city in the Union, has announced he will open a branch school in Ottawa.

RAIDER VICTIMS ANNOUNCE SHIPS WERE ALLOWED FREEDOM

FIND GIBRALTER WAS NEAR OTTAWA

JAMISON ABSTRACT ON BUFFALO
ROCK UNCOVERS INTERESTING
HISTORY OF BOOM CITY OF
1836-1838.

The town of Gibraltar, which was laid out and platted on the top of Buffalo Rock by a promoter by the name of Ben Thurston, July 1, 1833, has long been effaced from the memory of the residents of this county.

The record of the transaction came to light again recently in the transfer of the eighty acre Weidnrecht farm to William Jamison, the land man.

The abstract shows that Ben Thurston came into possession of eighty acres of land located on the top of Buffalo Rock July 1, 1833, for which he paid the government \$100. Thurston conceived the notion of building a city on the top of the rock and naming it Gibraltar, after the city located on the rock of the same name which commands the entrance to the Mediterranean. Thurston, evidently had visions of a deep water and had laid out his town with a view of safety from floods and dangers of whatever nature might beset the early settler and residents of the lowland.

Thurston's dream of the city built on the Rock was not unlike that of the Frenchman, de La Salle, who attempted to build up a French Empire in the Illinois Valley with Fort St. Louis on the summit of Starved Rock as its capital.

Thurston had his town laid out by the late Col. Daniel C. Hitt and recorded in the recorder's office in this county. After this had been accomplished he began the sale of lots and on August 4, 1836, seventy-five lots in the town of Gibraltar were sold to Strayer Palmer for \$3,000.

On September 7, 1837, David Letts, purchased eight lots for \$125, and about the same date another block of lots were secured by David Letts and George W. Howe for \$6670. These, evidently, were the choice lots of the village. Henry Phillips on July 26, purchased twenty lots for \$118. John Harvey and John Sperry purchased eighty-one lots for \$25, in the same month George Forsythe and the late Lorenzo Leland purchased forty-eight lots for \$700. John Keyes invested in seventy lots for \$118. Other purchasers were E. P. Woods, J. P. Stevens, Williams Mitchell, Oran Hamlin, E. J. Knowlton, M. N. Letts, Jonan Pope, S. Eddens, J. D. Wixen and James Johnson.

The promotion of the town of Gibraltar progressed favorably during the years 1836 and 1838, but after Thurston had disposed of most of the lots he lost interest in the project and the value of the land began to depreciate very rapidly, and after a lapse of twenty years the properties began to sell for taxes and foreclosures were numerous. Finally the town was abandoned and it reverted to farm property and finally came into the possession of William Weidnrecht, who has held it for the last twenty years.

THREE SUBEAS WITH RAIDER

Rio Janeiro, Jan. 20.—The German raider which has been preying on commerce in the South Atlantic, was accompanied by three submarines, says a dispatch from Pernambuco today. These submarines, were said to be less than 80 feet in length and of a new type.

The submarines were used for scout duty, it was said. They would leave the mother ship at intervals and later returned reporting the appearance of any ships they may have seen.

It was reported by persons landed from the Hudson Maru at Pernambuco, that the raider looks like an ordinary freighter. She flies the British flag while passing neutrals, but hoists the German ensign when she meets a British steamer.

An officer of the British steamer Minish, which was sunk by the raider, told of an incident that happened when the ship was taken. A German officer went on board and demanded the ship's papers. Upon being told that they had been destroyed, the Germans laughed and exclaimed: "You are playing the game, too, but it can't be helped."

Late Sleepers.

We are inclined as a people to let too much fresh air go to waste in the early morning.—Toledo Blade.

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CAPTAIN TOLD THEM HE DID NOT WANT TO KILL WOMEN AND CHILDREN

WERE WELL TREATED

SAILORS ARRIVE AT BUENOS
AIRES AND RECITE INCIDENTS
OF SEIZURE—REDNORSHIRE IS
DYNAMITED AFTER CAPTURE.

Buenos Aires, Jan. 20.—The Japanese ship Hudson Maru, which was captured by a German raider believed to be the Moewe and turned into a prison vessel, is still at Pernambuco, according to advices received here today. The Brazilian government, it was stated, had sent instructions to have her interned if she is armed.

The crews of the French barks Nantes and Asnières, who were among the 23 sea refugees landed at Pernambuco by the Hudson Maru, have gone to Bahia where they will await the arrival of a steamship to take them to France.

The Americans among the fugitives are being assisted by the United States consul at Pernambuco. The original raider, which is still thought to be the Moewe at large and many guesses are being made as to her whereabouts. According to some reports she is lurking in the Gulf of Mexico, according to others she has fled to the Canary Islands.

Statements made by the refugees at Pernambuco make it plain that the Germans were sparing of ammunition. The commander of the Radnorshire said that only one shot was fired at his ship. After the Radnorshire was halted German sailors went on board and sank her with dynamite. The Radnorshire was sent on Jan. 7.

It had been reported that the French merchantship Samara, 6,000 tons, had been sunk by the Germans, but this has been proved untrue. The Samara arrived at Rio Janeiro yesterday. She was overruled but had suffered no damage. The Samara is owned by the Compagnie Sud Americaine.

It is reported also that the Ortega was not sunk, as reported, but this has not been confirmed.

British seamen landed at Pernambuco say that the commander of the original German raider told them he allowed many ships to pass in safety because he did not want to kill women and children by sinking them.

"I could have done much more damage than I did but we Germans are not the barbarians that the Allies claim," the raider commander is reported to have said. He is further quoted as saying:

"It was easy in the South Atlantic to sink ships and at no time did we feel in any danger. We took every precaution to avoid any loss of life."

The prisoners on the Hudson Maru were allowed 15 minutes exercises on deck daily, but as their numbers increased food supplies grew scarce.

The Radnorshire commander said that secret information he was conveying to England was seized by the Germans. His story follows:

"After leaving Bahia I hugged the coast line and steamed in a northerly direction. When about 100 miles from Pernambuco the lookout sighted a strange vessel. Altho it was about 9 o'clock at night the ship could be seen plainly. She was apparently following up and was accompanied by a smaller ship. Having been warned of the presence of a German raider I did not waste any time in scrutinizing the vessels, but immediately offered my men to don life belts. The bigger of the two ships signalled us to stop and we did so. Soon two small boats came up filled with German sailors. A sub-lieutenant came on board and said that he intended to sink us. He asked about the cargo, but seemed to think that I was not telling him the truth for he sent a man into the hold to verify what I said."

"The Germans seized all our papers and also manuscripts containing secret information which I was carrying to England. A quantity of sugar and coffee was removed from our cargo and placed upon the bigger of the German ships. Then the crew was ordered off and dynamite bombs were placed on the ship. Eight minutes after the Germans left the bombs exploded and the Radnorshire went down."

"The commander of the Radnorshire tried to learn from me the whereabouts of the steamship Araguaya, but I told him that I knew nothing about her. This made him angry and he gave a sharp order for me to go below with my men. On January 12, we were transferred to the Hudson Maru."